

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a shared memory configured to store data; and

a multiprocessor logic circuit comprising (i) a plurality of processors and (ii) a message circuit, wherein (a) said message circuit is configured to pass messages between said processors and (b) each of said processors is configured to access said shared memory through a system bus.

2. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said message circuit comprises a dedicated messaging circuit.

3. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said message circuit comprises a message pipe-line FIFO.

4. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said message circuit is further configured to provide bi-directional orderly command passing.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said message circuit is further configured to generate

one or more control signals, ~~said control signals~~ configured to control an operation of said processors.

6. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said control signals comprise signals selected from the group consisting of (i) pipe-line overflow signals, (ii) pipe-line available signals, and (iii) command pending signals.

7. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said message circuit is further configured to add commands with normal priority levels and urgent priority levels.

8. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said normal priority levels comprise adding commands to an end of a message queue and said urgent priority levels comprise adding commands to a near to front of said message queue.

9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said multiprocessor logic circuit further comprises:

an address decoder configured to decode a system address and control said message circuit.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus provides a multiprocessor communication and shared memory architecture.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

~~said multiprocessor logic circuit and said shared memory are coupled by a system bus,~~

5 said multiprocessor logic block further comprises an address decoder configured to control said message circuit; and
 said message circuit is configured to generate one or more control signals configured to control said processors.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:
means for storing data with a shared memory;
means for processing data with a plurality of processors;
and

5 means for passing messages between said processors; and
 means for coupling each of said processors to said shared memory for accessing said shared memory by each of said processors through a system bus.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for multiprocessor communication with a shared memory, comprising the steps of:

(A) storing data with said shared memory;

(B) processing data with a plurality of processors; and

5 (C) passing messages between said processors, wherein
each of said processors is configured to access said shared memory
through a system bus.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 14, wherein
step (C) further comprises:

providing bi-directional orderly command passing.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 14, wherein
step (C) further comprises:

generating one or more control signals, said control
signals configured to control an operation of said processors.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 15, wherein
said control signals comprise signals selected from the group
consisting of: (i) pipe-line overflow signals, (ii) pipe-line
available signals, and (iii) command pending signals.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 13, wherein
step (C) further comprises:

adding commands with normal priority levels; and

adding commands with urgent priority levels.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 17,
wherein:

said adding commands with normal priority levels further
comprises adding commands to an end of a message queue; and

5 said adding commands with urgent priority levels further
comprises adding commands to a near to front of said message queue.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 13, wherein
step (C) further comprises:

decoding a system address.

20. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 19, wherein
step (C) further comprises:

controlling said messages in response to said decoded
system address.